

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

October 2010 – Week 2

Air Date: October 10 – October 16 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: PANICKING PACHYDERMS!

OCTOBER 1929... PANICKING PACHYDERMS!

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

OCTOBER 12, 1929. CIRCUS DAY IN CORSICANA. CURLEY PRITCHETT AND EVA DONOHOO HAVE COME TO SEE BLACK DIAMOND, A HUGE INDIAN ELEPHANT FAMOUS FOR HIS BAD TEMPER.

IN THE PARADE, BLACK DIAMOND GOES BERSERK, SLAMMING PRITCHETT ONTO A CAR. DONAHOO IS KNOCKED INTO THE STREET AND TRAMPLED. SHE DIES SOON AFTER.

CITIZENS DEMAND THE ELEPHANT'S DEATH, BUT NO ONE KNOWS HOW. PLANS TO DROWN HIM ARE REJECTED AND POISONED PEANUTS DON'T WORK. FINALLY, THE ELEPHANT IS SHOT – 155 TIMES – AND DIES. UNABLE TO BURY IT, THE NINE-TON ANIMAL IS CUT UP.

THE HEAD HANGS IN A HOUSTON MUSEUM FOR YEARS. IT NOW HANGS IN AN OFFICE IN CORSICANA.

BLACK DIAMOND WENT ON THE RAMPAGE 81 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.



“Black Diamond” by By Mrs. Fred P. Hodge, Navarro County Scroll, Volume XIV, 1969

http://www.rootsweb.com/~txnavarr/biographies/b/black_diamond.htm

“The Two Heads of Black Diamond” Editors of Roadside America

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/attract/TXCORdiamond.html>

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/pet/diamond.html>

“Black Diamond”, TIME magazine archival article

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,752326,00.html>

“Circus in America: Diamond, Black”

http://www.circusinamerica.org/public/people/public_show/5109

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Save Texas History Program

1-800-998-4GLO | www.savetexashistory.org | www.thisweekintexashistory.org

Texas General Land Office | Communications Division | 512-475-1685